

Rivanna Basin Commission

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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:

Rivanna River Basin Commission Urges Local Jurisdictions to Adopt Stormwater Management Programs

The Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC), the regional organization tasked with recommending programs for the enhancement of the water and natural resources of the Rivanna River, has provided the four participating jurisdictions with a progress report and recommendations for minimizing excessive sedimentation in the river. The four jurisdictions participating in the RRBC are Albemarle, Fluvanna and Greene Counties and the City of Charlottesville.

The RRBC's Technical Advisory Committee has been exploring as its top priority a series of strategies to manage stormwater volumes and quality in order to recharge groundwater, reduce siltation in the Rivanna and its tributaries, and improve the river's water quality. The RRBC has endorsed the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendations and sent them to the elected officials and planners in all four jurisdictions.

Among other things, the RRBC has asked the local governments to adopt the following priorities:

- On all new government facilities include the RRBC's suggested Best Management Practices (BMP's) to reduce runoff, minimize siltation and improve water quality.
- For existing government facilities , explore opportunities to retrofit them using the same BMP's.
- Consider organizing workshops on a city/county or regional basis with developers, engineers, planners and regulators to educate them on these practices and to identify obstacles in your local codes that may prevent their implementation.
- Explore the use of proffers, permit conditions, and/or incentives to encourage private developers to include the BMP'S in their projects.

Attached to the letter were a series of suggested BMP's researched and approved by the RRBC. These include: green roofs, impervious disconnections, raintanks and cisterns, permeable pavements, grass channels, bioretention, water quality swales, infiltration, detention ponds, soil amendments, filtering devices, stormwater wetlands, wet ponds, and riparian buffers.

“This is a menu of techniques proven to be effective in managing stormwater and improving water quality,” said RBBC chair, Sally Thomas. Vice chair Marvin Moss indicated, “The RBBC has gotten off the ground quickly and I believe effectively, and I would hope the participating jurisdictions would implement these BMP's and integrate them into their planning process.”

The RRBC has indicated that it would be willing to make presentations on this program to elected officials and planners and to provide further information and training.

Further information on this program can be found by